

THE CLIFTON CONFERENCE

Held by invitation and at the home of Mr. W. N. Hartshorn, Clifton, Mass., August 18-19-20, 1908, to consider the religious education of the Negroes.

Seventeen States; Thirty-seven Colleges and Schools; Nine Missionary Organizations and Twelve Religious Denominations were Represented.

Bishop Clinton of North Carolina declared the Conference to be "the Best Thing that has been done for the Race since Abraham Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation."

Its Purpose

"To discover the present mental, moral, and religious condition of the Negro; how this condition has been reached; its practical effect upon his daily life; what is needed; how obtained; how applied; the result.

"To discover if it is practical for the International Sunday-School Association to furnish instructors to universities, colleges, seminaries, and secondary schools already established for the education of the Negro, to teach the students practical methods in organizing, conducting, and teaching the individual Sunday-schools of the Negro churches in the city, the town, the village, and the rural district.

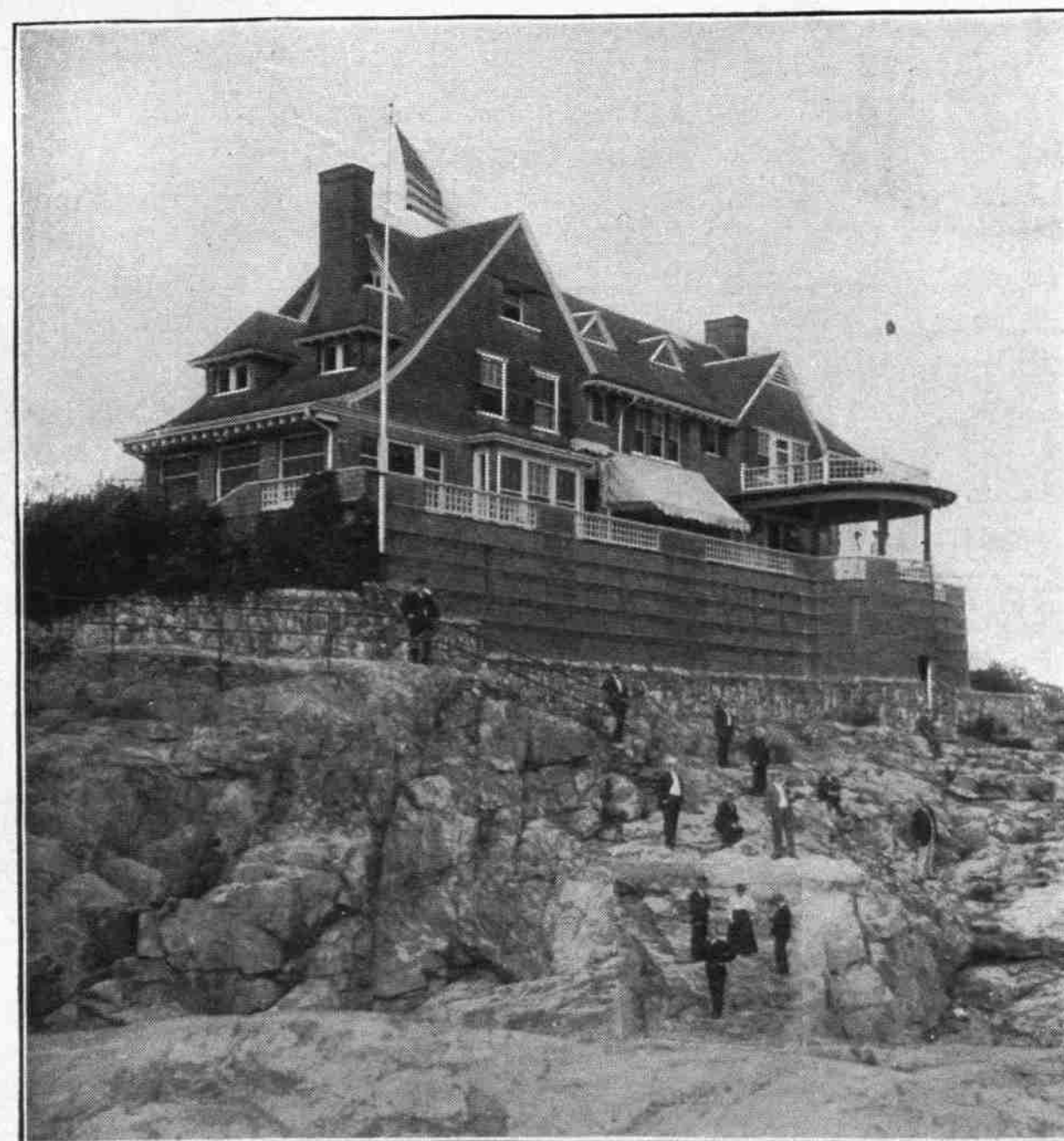
"To discover how the management and faculty of these institutions regard this plan, and what they will do to co-operate in making it successful."



Dyke Rock Cottage, Clifton, Mass. On the Land Side, among the Flowers

Five Clifton Conferences

1. June, 1901. Executive Committee, Massachusetts Sunday-School Association.
2. June, 1902. Executive Committee, Massachusetts Association and District Presidents.
3. June, 1903. For three days The International Sunday-School Editorial Association, with four hundred Massachusetts Sunday-School Workers on the third day.
4. August, 1905. Central Committee of the International Sunday-School Association.
5. August, 1908. The Relation of the Sunday-School to the Moral and Religious Education of the Negro.



Dyke Rock Cottage. Ocean Front, Looking Seaward

The Boston Transcript, Jan. 11, 1908, said: "Fifty-Four The Fenway, Boston, and Dyke Rock Cottage, Clifton, are likely to become to the Sunday-school Movement what Lake Mohonk is to the cause of arbitration and the Indian."

The Findings of the Conference

- (1) That we gratefully recognize the phenomenal progress of the Negro race since emancipation, and the excellent work that is being done by the educational institutions for the Negro in Bible instruction;
- (2) That the fundamental need in the present condition of the Negro is the development of right moral motives and high standards in the mass of the race;
- (3) That the permanent uplifting of the race must be through the moral and religious instruction of the children and youth in their homes, schools, and churches;
- (4) That the Sunday-school, when properly organized and conducted, is a great and effective agency for imparting the principles of the Christian religion and the saving knowledge of God's Word.

In view of this declaration, the Conference recommends:

That the International Sunday-School Association be requested, through its Committee on Work among Negroes, to co-operate with the committee appointed by this Conference in carrying out plans for the inauguration of systematic and thorough courses of Sunday-school training and instruction in colleges and schools for Negroes.

Committee from the Clifton Conference

John E. White, Atlanta, Ga., Pastor Second Baptist Church.
W. P. Thirkield, President Howard University, Washington.
Geo. Sale, Atlanta, Ga., Superintendent of Education, American Baptist Home Mission Society.
James G. Snedecor, Superintendent Stillman Institute, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Frank G. Woodworth, President Tougaloo University, Tougaloo, Miss.
William Goodell Frost, President Berea College, Berea, Ky.
Bishop Geo. W. Clinton, A. M. E. Z. Church, Charlotte, N. C.
M. C. B. Mason, Secretary Freedmen's Aid Society, Cincinnati, O.
R. T. Pollard, President Selma University, Selma, Ala.
H. L. McCrorey, President Biddle University, Charlotte, N. C.

Committee representing the International Sunday-School Association:

W. N. Hartshorn, Boston, Chairman. John Stites, Louisville, Ky. E. K. Warren, Three Oaks, Mich. John R. Pepper, Memphis, Tenn. W. A. Eudaly, Cincinnati, Ohio. N. B. Broughton, Raleigh, N. C. B. W. Green, Little Rock, Ark. M. C. Bridges, Norwood, La. Jay E. Adams, San Antonio, Tex. President H. B. Frissell, Hampton, Va.